support our manned space flight program.

REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO SPACE EXPLORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to first compliment the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) for the comments he just made, and I want to talk also about space.

Obviously, some of us are significantly dedicated to this issue in this Congress and in this country of ours. The work the gentleman has done and the work I have the honor to be able to participate in is most appreciated, and that has to be infectious and carry over to every Member of this House of Representatives and our Senate to move forward with this.

In starting, I want to talk first about a little girl whose name is Keely Woodruff. She is a little beyond this now, but when she came to me a couple of years ago, at 6 years old, she was having in excess of 50 epileptic seizures a day. This little girl had been to the emergency room so many times that her parents could not even count them. She had the developmental age of about 2½ and did not have much to live for in her life.

Interestingly enough, her doctor found a company in Clear Lake, Texas, in Houston, Texas, called Cyberonics; and Cyberonics had developed and markets today a takeoff on one of those spinoffs from space, a spinoff from a heart pacemaker called a vagus nerve stimulator. This little device was implanted under Keely's skin, with a little wire run up to the vagus nerve in her brain which began to control the impulses in her brain, and it changed her life. She has now set out on normalcy within that life of hers.

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What a magnificent thing space did for Keely Woodruff. She had no idea what space even was.

Mr. Speaker, all of that got started 40 years ago when John Kennedy stood here in this room and told this body, ''With the approval of this Congress, we have undertaken in the past year a great new effort in outer space. Our aim is not simply to be the first on the moon, any more than Charles Lindbergh's real aim was to be the first in Paris. His aim was to develop the techniques of our own country and other countries in the field of air and the atmosphere, and our objective in making this effort, which we hope will place one of our citizens on the moon is to develop in a new frontier of science, commerce and cooperation, the position of the United States and the Free World. This Nation belongs among the first to explore it, and among the first, if not the first, we shall be.''

John Kennedy later challenged this country by saying that we would be able to send a man to the moon and bring him home safely within 10 years from the time he challenged us. And our country rose magnificently to that challenge, and we created a whole new world in the conveniences that we receive, our ability today to communicate instantly from anywhere we stand around the world, and medical advances that cannot be compared to any other time in our world.

What a magnificent legacy he left us. Today we have satellites that spin above our atmosphere around the Earth. We have the International Space Station that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) spoke of, but today that dream is somewhat clouded.

Mr. Speaker, I want to challenge my colleagues today that it is time for us to change that vision back to what our country shared in the 1960s and the 1970s through the Apollo program, when our commitment budgetarily was 4 percent of the budget to go into space. And my colleagues in the House today, we are doing much more in space than we were doing then, but we are doing it with six-tenths of 1 percent of our budget.

The commitment that we made to change the world is not as strong today as it was 40 years ago. Something is wrong there. We have to change that lack of commitment back into the vision that can make the difference for the little girls that are going to follow, like Keely Woodruff, who might need the advance to save their life. Instead of it being a vagus nerve stimulator, what else might it be able to be to change that life?

If we fail to enact that vision that we planned at the International Space Station, to have seven scientists up there, to have a vehicle that can return them safely if there needs to be, like a crew return vehicle which we have begun to work on, if we fail to make the commitment, even to find the extra $300 million that we have asked for in this Congress, then something is wrong.

Then that is our challenge, colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen of this country. It is time to reaffirm our commitment and to go forward and see our dream accomplished in space.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SCIENCE IS WHAT SPACE EXPLORATION IS ALL ABOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, to be able to join my colleagues to remind us of the important challenge that this Nation accepted some 40 years ago when, under the vision of President John F. Kennedy, we said to the world that we would not be the stepchild of the Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that we were courageous enough to stand up and be counted, to value science, space exploration, to challenge the minds of Americans to begin to develop a great love and affection for the disciplines of engineering, math and science. Over the years we have created a new world, a world that has been filled with the excitement of space exploration and new heroes. We can tell by the lines that stood for the movies which captured the essence of what space was all about. We can tell by the stars in the eyes of young children who are delighted after they have visited the various space centers, and I might say particularly the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) and myself, and many others, have the privilege of serving on the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics; but the greatest privilege I have is going back to my district and going to elementary schools and telling a child, ''Yes, you can.'' That is, you can be an astronaut, an engineer. You can emphasize the skills that come about through studying science, and you can be someone.

Mr. Speaker, there are choices that we have to make in this Congress. When I came to Congress from an inner city district, people were watching and wondering: Would she choose housing over space; would she choose education over space? She has to do that.

I was able to turn around the concept of what space exploration and science is all about. It is about all of America. It is about all of our investment. It is about saying to each and every one that there is a return on the investment in science and exploration. There is a return on the investment of knowing how to do the sciences in space, to determine whether we can save lives of those afflicted with diabetes and HIV/AIDS and heart disease and cancer. Out of that came a sense of appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, having the privilege of learning myself and being able to bring to the Space Center people from around the world, I remember hosting the European Union because it was an asset in our community, and being part of the EU and the parliamentarian exchange. I insisted that they visit the Space Center, and that was the one of the very special parts of their trip. We took about 40 members of the European Union to Johnson Space Center. How privileged they thought they were. I went with President Rollins of Ghana, who is a pilot. He flew in the simulated spaceship, and began to think about what kind of space exploration could occur in Africa, on the continent of Africa.